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he gave much of his time to the care of the State Hospital for the Insane at Worcester, of which he was a trustee. Though his professional income was small, and his services were for the most part gratuitous, he enjoyed by inheritance, and increased by prudent management, a property sufficient, and in his later years more than sufficient, for his always moderate wants. His religious feelings, rarely expressed except in his personal character and conduct, were strong and constant.

He died, after a short illness, at the house of his son-in-law, Professor Gurney, at Cambridge, on April 13, 1885.

HENRY PURKITT KIDDER.

HENRY PURKITT KIDDER, lately the Treasurer of the American Academy, was born in Boston on the 18th of January, 1823. His father was Thomas Kidder, of that city. His mother, Clarissa Purkitt Kidder, was the daughter of Henry Purkitt, one of the Boston mechanics who were united in the Tea Party of December 16, 1773. He afterwards served in Pulaski's cavalry corps. His grandson was proud to inherit his name.

Henry Purkitt Kidder was one of several children. He passed through the lower schools, and, not many years after the establishment of the English High School, then kept in Pinckney Street, Boston, in a house built for it, he went through the full course of that school. He was first under the charge of Solomon Pearson Miles, and afterwards of Thomas Sherwin. To these gentlemen, and to George Barrell Emerson, their predecessor, all members of this Academy, was given, to a large degree, the formation of the system which has since prevailed in New England, in what in Europe has been called "Secondary Instruction," — the system of those high schools which do not attempt training in the classics. From the first, the English High School, under the lead given by these masters, has taken a high standard, and its method and discipline have been widely copied.

Mr. Kidder always looked back with pleasure upon the years which he spent there. In after life he gave to the school association, in memory of his school life, the group of statuary which now stands in the broad entrance hall of the schoolhouse. He brought from the school a quick ability in the mathematics, a taste for general literature, which he cultivated to the end of his life, a tolerable working knowledge of the French language, and the rudiments of the training for mercantile business which gave to him afterwards a happy and successful life.

He is remembered with pleasure by his school companions as a kindly, good-natured boy, willing to play, but as willing to study, conscientious and unselfish. But I doubt if any of them then knew or guessed that he had the qualities which would make him a leader among his fellow citizens before he died.

When he left school, he sought and obtained at once a boy's place in the auctioneer's firm of Coolidge and Haskell. Boys trained in the English High School were then, and always have been, favorites among Boston merchants, and this young fellow made good the reputation which his comrades had won. From the service of this firm he passed to that of the Boston and Worcester Railroad, in which he was a freight clerk until he was twenty-one years of age.

He had always wished to see the Western country, as does every young man of spirit in America, and had perhaps dreamed of establishing himself there. So soon, therefore, as he was free to choose his own life and career, he went to New Orleans, where he had a sister married, and from New Orleans went up the Mississippi River to Cincinnati, not travelling rapidly, but inquiring from place to place whether there were any need of him. If need there were, it did not show itself, and he was fond of saying in after life that the best lesson he ever learned, or the best perhaps but one, was that which he taught himself, or which a kind Providence taught him, when in Cincinnati he found he had expended all his money but a quarter of a dollar, and was, to appearance, no nearer finding his life-work than when he began his adventure. The truth was, that a certain instinctive purity of life made him dislike, with a certain shudder, the low or rough companions whom he was thrown with in the adventures of a young steamboat traveller in "prospecting," and the precise training for accurate business which led in fact to the career which he followed in after life was not exactly the discipline which would help him best in the rough give-and-take of life in new communities. However this may be, he came home to Boston, as soon as his friends sent him money for that purpose, wiser than he had started, and poorer, and wholly indisposed from that time to seek his home in other communities.

It was not long before he engaged himself as a junior clerk in the banking house of the late Ebenezer Francis, — the same house which was afterwards known as John E. Thayer & Co., and later yet, under Mr. Kidder's lead, took the name it still bears, of Kidder, Peabody, & Co. Mr. Francis had been the treasurer of Harvard College; he was also the treasurer of the Academy for many years, as was his

son-in-law Mr. Thayer after him, whom Mr. Kidder in his turn succeeded in the watchful care of our modest funds. It may be said, in passing, that the life of Ebenezer Francis would be a curious and might be an interesting addition to the history of the growth of the town of Boston, and would mark the steps by which the little town opened its communications with the West, and made the sudden growth in population and wealth which followed fast on the incorporation of the city. Mr. Francis was the son of the Colonel Francis who was killed at the head of his regiment when charging the English for the third time, as he covered St. Clair's retreat before Burgoyne. Burgoyne's despatches speak of Francis as "one of their best and bravest officers."

The private bank of Ebenezer Francis was small in comparison with the banking institutions of to-day. When Mr. Kidder entered it, it was largely directed by the brothers Thayer, one of whom had married Mr. Francis's daughter. The great railway enterprises of the country were beginning, and, after the natural timidity of capitalists had been conquered by the courage and success of adventurers, the brothers Thayer had joined wisely in their promotion. Mr. Kidder, entering as a beginner, stated at once to his young friends the rule in life which he afterward often urged on another generation. The success of the firm, he said, was his success, and it was his place to see it succeed. Very early in his connection with the house he was able, in his subordinate place, to discern methods of enlarging its work which instantly approved themselves to the sagacity of the brothers Thayer. They saw, and were glad to see, what manner of man they had in their employ, and advanced him rapidly in confidential positions.

From early life he was ready, was determined indeed, to do his part, whatever it might prove to be, for the community in which he lived. But he was modest and would never push himself as an applicant for any public trust, and it happened—not unnaturally perhaps—that the first public function he was ever asked to assume was that of teacher in the Sunday school, if indeed that can be called a public function. But the duty should be spoken of here, because, in the crowd of public trusts afterward imposed upon him, he had to say that the first time any one asked him to "be" anything was when he was asked to be a teacher in a Sunday school, and the second was when he was asked to serve as the youngest member of the church standing committee. To each trust he would carry a sensitive, perhaps a proud conception, of what it is to be asked by other men to fulfil a duty for the general good; and, as his life went forward, his readi-

ness to be of use, and his distinct recognition of the truth that he was in the world to be of use, and for nothing else, made him accept even the most difficult commissions, so he were only sure that the business in hand was something in his line, something which filled a public necessity, and something which he would do well.

He was thirty-eight years old when the war struck the country, and tested every man and woman in active life. Many of Mr. Kidder's immediate associates went to the field. His brother was killed, at the head of his company, in the battle of the Wilderness. In the thousand home duties, hardly less exciting, and certainly when wrought out by such men not less useful to the country, he was of service everywhere. His counsel was sought and given, his executive powers were freely devoted to every effort for the strengthening of the country, and wherever a strong man of affairs could serve, in that place he might be found.

He was for some years a junior partner of the firm of John E. Thayer & Co., and when Mr. Nathaniel Thayer retired from active business, in 1865, Mr. Kidder, Mr. Frank Peabody, and Mr. Oliver Peabody formed the new firm of Kidder, Peabody, & Co., which exists at this time. Just before Mr. Kidder's death, the firm was connected with the firm of Baring Brothers, which in the history of finance and of politics has for nearly a century been an important link in the union of the United States and Great Britain.

A man who had so much to do with the development of the physical resources of the country may fairly be said to be connected in the closest way with its practical science. But it is rather as an enthusiastic patron of the fine arts that Mr. Kidder deserves his place as a prominent member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences. In early life he began the collection of prints, which he afterwards enlarged by the purchase of choice examples. In such matters he was — what he would never have called himself — a connoisseur. But afterwards, as he was able to indulge his very admirable taste, he preferred to buy pictures generally of the artists of our own time, such as should give pleasure to himself and to his friends in his beautiful homes. No man was less apt to be led by a dealer than he. He would buy what he liked, and what he did not like he would not buy. He knew what he liked, and knew it with a very definite certainty.

This interest or passion is not to be spoken of without reference to his enthusiastic love for nature, his passion for flowers, and the pleasure which all fine scenery gave him. Some one asked him once what was his favorite summer amusement, and he replied, "Sitting on a

fence to see the grass grow." This was a simple and accurate enough statement of the pleasure which he took in gardens and gardening, in travelling in picturesque countries, and of the solid satisfaction which he took in natural beauty, whether simple or grand. Without the slightest facility of hand beyond the ability to make a neat geometrical drawing, he had much of the make-up of an artist, which showed itself both in his choice of pictures for his home and in the large amount of time and life which he really consecrated in the open air.

He was chosen into the American Academy on June 9, 1880; treasurer, on May 29, 1883. The surviving members will remember with interest the impressive exercises at his house on the evening when Mr. Corliss received the Rumford Medal, as well as other occasions when the Academy has enjoyed his hospitable welcome.

Mr. Kidder was a member of the government of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College; he was President of the Unitarian Association, of the Children's Mission, and of many other charitable societies. It is interesting to say of a man so largely engaged in the public service, that he was superintendent of the Sunday school of the South Congregational Church for more than twenty years. His life, indeed, was freely given to the service of his fellow men.

When one has said this, he has said the most remarkable thing about his life, and has named the most remarkable feature in his character. He would himself have said that such success as had come to him in life was due to his determination to use life for the common service. But it must be added, that this firm moral purpose had so moulded his habits of daily work as to give him a power of command or leadership which does not fall to common men. While the city of Chicago was yet burning, a town meeting of the people of Boston was held to take measures for their relief. The Mayor presided, and read a list of officers whose names were suggested as a commission to collect and forward the contributions of Boston. Almost of course, Mr. Kidder was proposed as treasurer. A little after, he left the platform and went back to his bank. Within a few minutes came down from him this message to the Mayor: "I have bidden them draw on me at sight for \$100,000." The other speaking was interrupted, that this best speech of all might be repeated; and Faneuil Hall was never so enthusiastic as when it thus learned to what standard of liberality he had pledged them. In point of fact, the subscriptions of Boston amounted to more than half a million. It was that despatch of his which struck the key-

note for the liberality of the world. How it was received in Chicago you know. With us, the speaking went on from the platform ; and at the end of the morning we elected the list of officers who had been nominated two or three hours before. With his usual promptness, he had taken the whole responsibility before he was so much as chosen to the position in which he was formally acting.

Such promptness as this — his constant readiness to do a large thing rather than a small one — might, in a man of less balance or force, have become rashness. But of him it may certainly be said, that he acquired fortune without any apparent effort to acquire fortune ; he managed a host of trusts without any appearance of worry or anxiety ; he was always at ease and ready for companionship, — for literary, or musical, or other artistic gratification. In the midst of cares, he was never oppressed by them ; and while the least indolent of men, he never appeared exhausted. Such success reveals a well-disciplined mind of extraordinary power, and a soul master of that mind and of the body which served it, loyal to his God, willing to share in his work, and to seek his help to-day.

Mr. Kidder was twice married : first, to Caroline W. Archbald, in December, 1847. Mrs. Kidder died on the 31st of March, 1881, leaving him three sons, Henry Thomas Kidder, Charles Archbald Kidder, and Nathaniel Thayer Kidder.

He married a second time in June, 1883, Elizabeth Huidekoper, of Meadville, Penn., who survives him.

ROBERT TREAT PAINE.

ROBERT TREAT PAINE was born in Boston, October 12, 1803, and died in Brookline, June 3, 1885. He was the grandson of Robert Treat Paine, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and afterwards Attorney-General and Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and still better known as the eminent jurist who conducted the prosecution of Captain Preston and his men at their trial for committing the "Boston Massacre." The grandfather was a staunch Federalist, as was also the father, who bore the same name, and was esteemed in his day as a writer and poet. Mr. Paine, our associate, early displayed an interest in astronomy, and distinctly recollected being shown the comet of 1811. He never would admit that any later comet would compare with this, especially as regards the length of its tail, which extended from one side of the heavens to the other. This, like other astronomical objects, had in his mind a vivid